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STATE OF MONTANA

BULLETIN

OF THE

Department of Public Health

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MONTANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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HELENA, MONTANA

Published Monthly at Helena, by the State Board of Health.

"The science of disease prevention, if properly applied, can add fifteen years to the present average length of human life."—Prof. Irving Fisher, Yale.

This Bulletin will be mailed monthly to any person in Montana upon request mailed to the Secretary of the State Board of Health at Helena.



SAVE THE BABIES.

In Harper's Weekly for September 30th, there is an excellent article by Helen H. Hoffman on the subject of "Saving the Babies."

This article states that the cry "Save the Babies" has extended throughout the entire country during the summer that has just passed. But I regret to note that there has been little or no organized effort on the part of the people of Montana to "Save the Babies."

There is a well established idea in the minds of practically all of our people that a large number of babies must die within the first year of life and that even a larger percentage of the babies must die within the second year of life. As a matter of fact a large number of babies will die, but more than twice as many babies are permitted to die than should be. Over half of the infant mortality results from diseases that can and should be prevented. This is not an imaginary statement. It was proven in New York during the summer that has just passed, where by organized effort the death rate among infants in New York City was cut absolutely in two.

The baby was "discovered" some years ago by a Frenchman named Budin. This frenchman took the stand that regardless of the decrease in births among the French people, the decrease in population from this cause could well be met by preserving the lives of the children that were born; and today France leads the world in her efforts to preserve the lives of her babies.

I have stated that there has been no organized effort on the part of the people of Montana to "save the babies" and this statement may be confronted with a statement that there is no need for such effort on the part of the people of Montana, because the death rate among our infants is low. But can this latter statement be established? Let us see what the death records of this state actually show in this matter.

During the year ending June 30th, 1911, there were 4,375 deaths reported in this State. Of these 1,239, or 28.3 percent of all the deaths in the State occurred in infants under two years of age. The two principal causes of deaths among infants as stated in the death certificates signed by the physicians of this State are diarrheal diseases of infancy and innanition, malnutrition and other terms equivalent to enteritis. There were

248 death certificates for children under two years of age in which the cause of death was given as enteritis, (diarhea). There were 367 death certificates in which the cause of death was given in some evasive term, but which properly named meant the result of improper feeding, or feeding improper food to the infant. Thus 615 deaths among infants under two years of age resulted from improper feeding during the year ending June 30, 1911. But of the other causes of deaths among infants, many of them were from causes that could be as easily prevented as that of improper feeding.

But how does infantile mortality in Montana compare with that of other States? We find that during 1908 there were 691,574 deaths reported in the registration area of the United States, this registration area representing about fifty percent of the population of the United States. Of this total number of deaths 164,265 occurred among children under two years of age, or in the total registration area of the United States the percentage of deaths among children under two years of age was 23.7, as compared with 28.3 in the State of Montana. These are facts as shown by the death records of this State and the death rate records of the registration area of the nation, and they do not show by any means that there is no cause to make an effort to "Save the Babies" in Montana. On the other hand it shows that there is a decided indication that an effort, and no slight effort at that, should be made on the part of our people to "Save the Babies."

Not only do the death records show that there is a decided indication for an effort along this line on the part of our people, but they show something else. This State has no right to a high infant mortality, when we compare the conditions under which the people of this State live with the conditions under which the tenement dwellers of New York live, that instead of showing a greater infant mortality than the average throughout this great country, we should show an infant mortality of not more than one half of that shown by the city of New York. We have in this State no tenement house districts, when we compare them with those of our crowded cities of the East. There should be no deaths in this State as a result of crowded conditions and there are probably comparatively few deaths as a result of such crowding. Hence our large infant mortality must of necessity come from a lack of care for the infants

and this care is expressed in the brief term "Improper Feeding of the Child."

We must therefore consider what is the source of this improper feeding? First, we must realize the fact that we have in our State a large number of foreigners, especially in certain mining districts, who are totally ignorant in matters pertaining to hygiene, and among the infants of this class the death rate is markedly high. The next thing that we must consider is that our food supply has not heretofore been protected. In fact our laws relative to the protection of our food supply do not go into effect until January 1st, 1912. In the meantime our infants are being fed food and especially milk that is not fit for human consumption. Under such circumstances is it any wonder that the delicate intestinal tract of the young infants become deranged and death results?

But we have a pure food law, and one which should protect our milk supply, which goes into effect the first of January, 1912. This law is a good and efficient law and if properly enforced will result in a marked diminution of the death rate among the infants of this State.

But who is it that actually enforces the laws of this and any other State? You may immediately reply, "It is the officer upon whom such duty is imposed." Here I must beg to differ with you. It is not the officer who enforces the law. It is the people and the People with a big "P", who enforce the law. The officer arrests violators of the law, but the people through their opinion, enforce the law. Enact any law that you desire and deprive it of public support, deprive it of the sympathy of the people in the community, and that law will never and can never be enforced. Place any law that you may desire upon your statute books and let the people be indifferent with regard to its enforcement and it will be indifferently enforced if enforced at all. Therefore it is the people who actually enforce the law, and in the case of a pure food law or any other law, if the sympathies of the people are not with it, it can never be enforced, no matter how energetic your officer may be in his efforts to enforce it.

It is stated in the article in Harper's Weekly referred to above that the death rate among infants in New York City was cut in two during the summer that has just passed. How was this accomplished? By the organized efforts of the intelli-

gent people working in conjunction with the Department of Public Health. These people went to the tenement houses and lectured from their automobiles to the mothers who did not know how to care for their children. They not only lectured from their automobiles, but they went into the lowest tenement house districts and showed the mothers how to care for their children. Not only did these people make such efforts themselves, but they employed trained nurses and kept these nurses visiting and teaching mothers. In addition to this they established milk depots where the parents could secure pure and unadulterated milk, and at these depots nurses were constantly in attendance teaching mothers how to care for this milk after they took it home.

Not only did these people teach the mothers of the tenement districts how to feed their babies, but they taught them the importance of cleanliness, not only with regard to food, but in every other respect.

The story of carrying on such a campaign is a long one, and it is the intent of this article only to call to the attention of the people of Montana the fact that there is a demand, and a crying demand, for an effort on the part of our people to "Save the Babies," and to call to their attention the fact that, no matter how hard your officers may work to enforce any law, they cannot be successful unless they are supported by the sympathy of the people, and as this new and important law, a law designed to protect our food supply, goes into effect, I appeal to the people of Montana to support your Health Officers in their efforts to enforce this law, and if you find that your local or county health officer is neglecting his duty in this matter, or any other matter pertaining to the protection of public health, demand of your Mayor or County Commissioners the appointment of a man who will enforce the law that will "Save the Babies."

HOW IS THIS FOR AN ARGUMENT?

A short time ago the following conversation took place between a dairyman and a Health Officer:

Dairyman—"I think these rules that have been made about dairies are all foolishness. What is the use of clipping the long hairs from a cow's udders?"

Health Officer—"How are you going to keep dirt that naturally accumulates in this long hair from getting in milk?"

Dairyman—"Why I wash my cow's udders thoroughly every time before I milk them. If a man washes the udders thoroughly no dirt will get into the milk. And another one of the regulations. What is the use of keeping a wash basin and water in the barn to wash your hands before you milk? Does that Board of Health think that we have running water in all the barns in the country?"

Health Officer—"Are buckets very scarce in your neighborhood?"

Dairyman—"It don't make any difference about the buckets, I don't propose to carry buckets of water to my barn."

Health Officer—"By the way, didn't you say that you washed your cow's udders each time before you milk?"

Dairyman—"Yes, sir."

Health Officer—"What do you wash them with?"

Dairyman—"Shucks, you ask to many questions."

As a matter of fact this dairyman does not wash his cows' udders or his hands either, and a good many others who object washing their cows' udders follow the same practice. If they like to drink milk with cow's manure in it, they are perfectly welcome to do so, but the people of this State object to paying ten cents a quart for cow's manure.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1911.

SMALLPOX—Cases of smallpox were reported as follows: Great Falls, 5; Missoula (exclusive of Missoula City), 1; Silver Bow (exclusive of Butte), 1; total, 7; total last month, 12.

DIPHTHERIA—Cases of diphtheria were reported as follows: Cascade (exclusive of Great Falls), 1; Great Falls, 2; Dawson, 3; Flathead, (exclusive of Kalispell), 1; Ravalli, 1; Billings, 1; total, 9; total last month, 10.

SCARLET Fever—Cases of scarlet fever were reported as follows: Beaverhead, 4; Carbon, 1; Custer, 1; Dawson, 1; Bozeman, 1; Powell, 1; Ravalli, 1; Silver Bow (exclusive of Butte), 10; Butte, 4; Teton, 3; Billings, 1; total, 28; total last month, 14.

TYPHOID FEVER—Cases of Typhoid Fever were reported as follows: Carbon, 2; Great Falls, 7; Chouteau, 7; Custer, 7; Dawson, 8; Flathead (exclusive of Kalispell), 1; Kalispell, 4; Fergus, 2; Bozeman, 1; Lewis and Clark (exclusive of Helena), 1; Helena, 4, (2 imported); Missoula (exclusive of Missoula), 1; Missoula, 8, (6 imported); Park, 2; Powell, 1; Rosebud, 2; Sanders, 4; Sweet Grass, 2; Teton, 4; Valley, 2; Yellowstone (exclusive of Billings), 7; Billings, 13, (3 imported); total, 90; total last month, 56.

MEASLES—Cases of Measles were reported as follows: Custer, 1; Ravalli, 1; Yellowstone (exclusive of Billings), 5; total, 7; total last month, 12.

**DEATHS (EXCLUSIVE OF STILLBIRTHS) REPORTED TO THE STATE
BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1911,
ARRANGED ACCORDING TO COUNTIES AND CITIES.**

	Totals	All Other Causes	Alcoholism	Suicide	Violence	Acute Intestinal Diseases	Malignant Tumors	Organic Heart Disease	Nephritis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Small Pox	Spotted Fever
Beaverhead	5	3							1								
Broadwater																	
Carbon	12	1							1								
Cascade (Excl. of)	5	3															
Great Falls	13	2	1						1		1						
Chouteau																	
Custer	12	6							1								
Dawson	8	3	1														
Deer Lodge (Excl. of)	8	3	1														
Anaconda*																	
Fergus	9	6							1								
Flathead (Excl. of)	8	4							1								
Kalispell	4	2							1								
Gallatin (Excl. of)	7	1							2								
Bozeman									1								
Granite	2	2							1								
Jefferson	2	1							1								
Lewis and Clark (Excl. of)																	
Helena	14	4							2								
Lincoln	2								1								
Madison	5	5							1								
Meagher	3	2															
Missoula (Excl. of)	4	1							1								
Missoula City	19	4	3						1		1						
Musselshell	2	1															
Park (Excl. of)		2															
Livingston	2	1							1								
Powell	3	1							1								
Ravalli	7	5															
Rosebud																	
Sanders																	
Silver Bow (Excl. of)	20	5							1		3						
Butte	60	14	2						3		3						
Sweet Grass	2																
Teton	2	2															
Valley	8	4															
Yellowstone (Excl. of)	11	4							2								
Billings	11	4							1								
Total	287	101	5	6	45	24	8	31	19	14	3	9	1	1	20	2	

Population, 375,000.

Monthly Death Rate per 1,000 .765

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 9.19.

*Report from Anaconda has not been received to date.

**BIRTHS REPORTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1911, AND COMPARATIVE BIRTH
AND DEATH RECORD IN THE STATE.**

	Males	Females	Totals	Deaths	Excess of births	Excess of deaths
Beaverhead	3	4	7	5	2	...
Broadwater	3	4	7	...	7	...
Carbon	14	17	31	12	19	...
Cascade (Excl. of)	10	10	20	5	15	...
Great Falls	20	20	40	13	27	...
Chouteau	11	8	19	9	10	...
Custer	10	12	22	12	10	...
Dawson	22	13	35	8	27	...
Deer Lodge (Excl. of) .....	...	...	...	8	...	8
Anaconda* .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fergus	23	14	37	9	28	...
Flathead (Excl. of)	12	4	16	8	8	...
Kalispell	7	4	11	4	7	...
Gallatin (Excl. of)	9	6	15	7	8	...
Bozeman	7	18	25	2	23	...
Granite	2	4	6	2	4	...
Jefferson	1	...	1	2	...	1
Lewis and Clark (Excl. of)	6	3	9	4	5	...
Helena	7	12	19	14	5	...
Lincoln	4	4	8	2	6	...
Madison	8	2	10	9	1	...
Meagher	5	5	10	3	7	...
Missoula (Excl. of)	8	3	11	4	7	...
Missoula City	10	11	21	19	2	...
Musselshell	1	4	5	2	3	...
Park (Excl. of) .....	...	2	2	3	...	1
Livingston	11	9	20	2	18	...
Powell	5	3	8	3	5	...
Ravalli	13	8	21	7	14	...
Rosebud	5	1	6	...	6	...
Sanders	2	...	2	...	2	...
Silver Bow (Excl. of)	8	14	22	20	2	...
Butte	34	36	70	50	20	...
Sweet Grass	6	4	10	2	8	...
Teton	4	6	10	7	3	...
Valley	27	13	40	8	32	...
Yellowstone (Excl. of)	7	10	17	11	6	...
Billings	10	9	19	11	8	...
Totals	345	297	632	287	45	...

*Report from Anaconda has not been received to date.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER DAIRY CATTLE TESTED AND REPORTED
TO THIS OFFICE TO OCTOBER 23, 1911.

County.	Inspector.	No. Cattle Tested.....	No. Cattle Reacting.....	Per Cent.....
Beaverhead.....	Dr. W. C. Orr.....	96	1	1.04
Cascade.....	Dr. A. J. Butterfield.....	913	101	9.03
Deer Lodge.....	Dr. F. S. Gray.....	175	24	7.3
Fergus.....	Dr. F. S. Gray.....	281	1	.35
Flathead.....	Dr. A. J. Butterfield.....	211	4	5.2
Gallatin.....	Dr. H. Welch.....	68	1	1.47
Jefferson.....	Dr. Z. C. Boyd.....	197	0	.00
Lewis and Clark.....	Dr. Z. C. Boyd.....	979	21	4.6
Madison.....	Dr. W. C. Orr.....	42	2	4.7
Meagher.....	Dr. F. S. Gray.....	78	11	7.00
Missoula.....	Dr. C. H. Stevens.....	715	35	4.8
Musselshell.....	Dr. F. S. Gray.....	87	5	4.1
Park.....	Dr. F. S. Gray.....	251	48	19.5
Ravalli.....	Dr. C. H. Stevens.....	502	20	2.5
Silver Bow.....	Dr. Z. C. Boyd.....	563	181	32.5
Yellowstone.....	Dr. F. S. Gray.....	554	37	10.5
Totals.....	.....	5712	492	8.3

FLY-SONG.

Ten little flies
All in a line;
One got a swat!
Then there were * * * * *
Nine little flies
Grimly sedate,
Licking their chops—
Swat! There were * * * * *
Eight little flies.
Raising some more—
Swat! Swat! Swat! Swat!
Then there were * * * *
Four little flies
Colored green-blue;
Swat! (Ain't it easy!)
Then there were * *
Two little flies
Dodged the civilian—
Early next day
There were a million!

—Buffalo News.

